

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING LEBANON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resourceful church, Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church.

The Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church had its beginning in 1869, when the congregation worshipped under a "brush arbor" with the Reverend David Adams serving as pastor and founder.

Realizing the need for a structure in which to worship, the pastor and members put forth every effort to design and construct the first church. The building was erected approximately 60 to 70 feet from the old church site.

As we look back over the 147-year history of Lebanon, we are reminded of the loyal devotion of the early pioneers and their steadfastness to the cause of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We attribute any success or progress of this church to their loyalty.

The Reverend David Adams served faithfully as pastor until his death; and the Reverend Riley Russell accepted the call as pastor and served diligently until his death. Some of the early pastors were the Reverends: S.D. Smith, Joe Baskin, Dan Anderson, Connelly, and J. A. Johnson. Pleasant Fractions: Jimmy Mines; and J. Carter.

The Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church is recognized as the oldest land grant church in this area. It has served as a torch shining forth "her" brilliant light in this community. This light of hope and compassion has compelled many to come to Christ.

No church can survive without the dedicated cooperation of its members. The long, successful history of Lebanon is due to the dedicated, cooperative efforts of the many pastors, deacons, church mothers, and general congregation.

Some of the early deacons were: Brothers Joe Hodges; Pink Roseby; Ben Friar; C. H. Benson; R. B. Roseby; Richard Epps; Michael C. Smith; George Friar; and Tom Randle.

In 1912, the first church was destroyed by a violent storm. The force of the storm served as the epitome for the rebuilding of the second church, and its completion was the epoch of the old church site.

Some of the pioneer members of the Mothers Board were: Sisters Ophelia Anderson; Mary Benson; Sara Smith; Mary Anderson; Lucy Hunter; Hassie Montgomery; Harriet Craighead; Mattie L. Benson; Martha Ross Benson; and Sallie Epps.

Still moving forward, the Reverend A. W. Jones accepted the call as pastor. He served well until his accepting the call of another church. Following Reverend Jones, the Reverends: C. D. Brown; C. L. Clark; George Harper; Aaron Barron; and Melvin Lewis served as pastor of Lebanon.

Deacons serving under these administrations were: Brothers West Benson; Eddie

Donelson; Leslie Hodges; Edgar Waddell; Pinkney Benson; Daniel Mickey; Daniel Kimbrough; Ira Blake; Mack Friar; O. W. Hodges; Mack McKennie; Samuel Friar; Charles Quincy Spurlin; Jessie Harmon; L. B. Hathorn; Alphonso Wright; Jacob J. McClain; and Charlie Benson.

The Mothers Board consisted of: Sisters Harriet Friar, Hallie Donelson, Elmira Horton, Minnie Hodges, Lyda Friar, Mary V. Hodges, Rebecca Kimbrough, Bessie Green, Roberta Blake, Priscilla Benson, Lillie Waddell, Mamie McKennie, Mary L. Friar, Mattie L. Hodges, Paralee McClain, Frankie Hodges, Eula Spurlin, Callie McKennie, Willie Mae Meeks, Ollie Harmon, and Olivia Garnett.

The edifice of the old church underwent many changes such as: lowering the ceilings; modern light fixtures; paneling of the sanctuary; bricking; and the construction of a kitchen and fellowship hall. Sanctuary pews, a communion table, and new pulpit furniture were purchased to enhance the decor of the church. These ventures of improvement were all completed under the leadership of the Reverend Aaron Barron.

Reverend Barron served as pastor for 27 consecutive years. He was a faithful and dynamic minister of the Gospel. During his administration, many souls realized the need for peace in their lives—that peace that surpassed all understanding—and accepted Christ as their personal Savior. Reverend Aaron Barron exchanged mortality for immortality and entered unto eternity in October 1983, while serving as pastor of Lebanon.

In January 1984, the Reverend Melvin B. Lewis accepted the call and served as pastor until 1987. Under the leadership of Reverend Lewis, a pastor's study was constructed, central heat and air conditioning was installed, and an organ was purchased for the sanctuary.

In June 1987, the Reverend J.W. Redmond accepted the call to serve as pastor of Lebanon. The church was blessed with many members, an Inspirational Choir, and Evangelist Quinzola McKennie.

Brothers: Coy Henderson; Leslie McKennie; Charlie Wright; Larry McKennie; and Paul Gilmore were installed as deacons. Installed on the Mothers Board were Sisters: Ola Mae Bailey, Priscilla Anderson, Grace Kimbrough, Rose Gibson, and as Deaconess were Sisters: Minnie McKennie, Sharon Wright, and Annie Gilmore.

Under the leadership of Reverend Redmond, a new roof was installed on the church, the choir stand was elevated and carpeted, floral arrangements and doors were added to the sanctuary. Following the leadership of the pastor, the Lebanon Inspirational Choir dedicated to the church some choir robes, and added mirrors and double doors to the sanctuary, remodeled and refurbished the pastor's study. The Friar and Montgomery families dedicated chandeliers to enhance the entrance of the church.

Reverend Redmond exchanged mortality for immortality and entered unto eternity in Janu-

ary 2000, while serving as pastor of Lebanon Church.

After the death of Reverend Redmond, the Reverend Walter Eskridge, Jr. accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church in October 2000.

Under the leadership of Reverend Eskridge, the church has been blessed with many new members and rededications. A new church building was erected on land given to the church by Sis. Earsalean McClain's family, and the doors were opened for the first service on July 4, 2004; new choir robes were purchased for LSC, LIC, and LYC; a television and VCR were purchased through the aid of the Home Mission Society; Discipleship and New Members classes were started; the Fellowship Hall has been named the Earsalean McClain Fellowship Hall in memory of Sis. Earsalean McClain; the Educational Wing has been named the Martha Ross Benson Educational Wing in memory of Sis. Martha Ross Benson; each classroom has been named in memory of: Class No. 1—Deacon Samuel Friar; Class No. 2—Mother Elmira Horton; Class No. 3—Mother Lillie Waddell; Nursery—Mothers Callie McKennie and Roberta Blake; Choir Room—Sister Levirda Dixon and Bro. Eric Friar; and the Business Office in honor of Deacon Jessie Harmon; and the church is growing through his ministry. A new roof "The Red Top" was installed on the church. On June 7, 2015 Bro. Andrew Lee Brown was crowned as Deacon.

The Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church's current Deacons and Trustees Board members are Brothers: Jessie Harmon; Coy Henderson; Lawrence McKennie; Andrew Brown; and Sisters: Lula Friar; Lillie Benson Green and Earline Wright Hart.

The present Mothers Board members are Sisters: Ollie Harmon and Deaconess, Sister Annie Gilmore.

Through these many years of service to God and mankind, the Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church has survived many trials and tribulations, but are determined that forces of evil will not hinder them nor separate them from the love of God.

The torch carried by the pioneer members of the Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church, cast rays of light across their pathway. This light gives the church hope of a brighter future for the church. Those following will raise that torch high and keep the light burning bright. They will trim their lamps, put on the whole armor of God, and continue to hold up the blood stained banner.

It is with this same spirit as soldiers going forth to war, accented with Christian love, devotion and dedication to the cause of the Kingdom, which the history of the Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church continues.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING GILFIELD MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Gilfield M.B. Church in Doddsville, Mississippi. The church was founded and built by slaves on the banks on the Sunflower River located on the plantation of United States Senator James O. Eastland in 1894.

The history of the church spans 122 years with records showing three structures as its home, each with its own fascinating and remarkable journey. Early records of the church were recalled and passed down by word of mouth from slaves down to the members of the church who were also relatives. The earliest written record of the church was around the 1980s. Many of the elders and other members were still attending the church, so Ms. Hattie Jordan, a member of the church, volunteered to be the church historian and keeper of the records. She gathered documents, recorded oral stories, researched "leads" of where she could get more information or someone who could corroborate the findings. One source of information she relied on were two cornerstones located on the existing churchfront in Doddsville. One of the cornerstones was once the original place of the church in 1894, and transferred thereafter to structures one and two.

In 1894 the location of the first church was strategically planned to exist near water. It is believed but not recorded that the location was chosen because the river could be used to secretly baptize members—a practice not openly approved of by plantation owners. Ms. Jordan told the story of how she was baptized in the Sunflower River behind Gilfield M.B. Church in 1953 by Rev. McGee. Gilfield M.B. Church was allowed to exist only because Senator Eastland gave the slaves his approval.

The first pastors of Gilfield M.B. Church at its initial location were: Rev. C.C. Edwards, Rev. Hester, Rev. Hobbs, and Rev. Mose Watson. No written records were kept by slaves. The only source for handing down information was by word of mouth to the younger generation.

The second Gilfield M.B. Church was built a mile down from the first site on the banks of the Sunflower River on the Eastland Plantation. Rev. Mose Watson was the pastor. He continued to lead the church as he did while pastoring at the first location. After Rev. Watson, the church installed Rev. Issac as the new pastor until his death in 1947. Following Rev. Issac the church was led by Rev. Latson from 1947 to 1952. Rev. Latson left the church to move to Chicago, IL. Immediately afterwards, Rev. McGee became the pastor in 1952 but separated from the church in 1953. There was a short lapse in pastors because Rev. Fleming did not begin pastoring the church until 1954. Records indicate he was the last pastor of the second structure listed as the home of Gilfield M.B. Church.

Rev. Fleming moved with the church to their third home beside the site of the second home, on the banks of the Sunflower River located on the Eastland Plantation. The sanc-

tuary section of the second site was demolished, leaving the backside section to be used for church gatherings, which still stands today. The pastors of the third site location in order of leadership were: Rev. Fleming, Rev. John H. Williams, Rev. Clarence Tolbert, and the current pastor is Rev. Theatry Winters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Gilfield M.B. Church of Doddsville, MS located in Sunflower County inside of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi.

HONORING SYKES CHAPEL
MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable historical church, Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Lambert, Mississippi and the great leadership it is under.

Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church was founded in the 1900s by the share cropping plantation families: the Sykes family, the Noble family, the Cox family, and the McCray family. For years, there was no building for worship service. Therefore, the families went from house to house worshipping and praising God. The plantation was first-owned by Mr. Yeager who later gave it to his relative, Mr. E. H. Anderson. Mr. Anderson was a God-fearing man who would often stand in the back of worship service.

The Sykes family was the oldest and first family on the plantation. Therefore, the families gathered together and sold cakes to raise a little money. Afterwards, they asked Mr. Anderson to allow them to have a spot to build a church. Mr. Anderson allowed them to build a one-room shot gun building and allowed the men on the plantation to provide the labor. There was one wood heater and no air, but the families continued to praise God.

The members along with Mr. Anderson agreed to name the church Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Minister Richardson was the first pastor selected. He served for a while, and later God called him home. In addition to the church, Mr. Anderson provided them with burial ground, and they called it the Sykes Chapel Cemetery. Some of the members are actually buried there.

Later, the church was destroyed twice—first by storm and later by fire. With the assistance of Mr. Anderson and loyal families, the church was rebuilt twice. After rebuilding the church, they had worship service once a month. The church has been under the leadership of several pastors: Rev. Harry Benimon, Rev. Rollie Lee, Rev. Arthur Lee, Rev. Lloyd Johnson, and Rev. Robert Griffin.

Pastor Lloyd Johnson enjoyed praising God. He encouraged members to attend church every Sunday, and the membership increased. He later had a vision to build a larger sanctuary. In the process of preparing to build a larger church, no deed was found. Several deacons, including Deacon Albert Emerson, Deacon James Lee McCray, Deacon Ollie McCray, and Deacon Eddie Moore went to Mr. Anderson to inquire about the deed, and he sold the land to Sykes Chapel Missionary

Baptist Church for \$1.00. In addition to the new sanctuary, a bus and van were purchased; outreach ministries and abstinence programs were started. Pastor Johnson served as pastor for seventeen years, until God called him home.

God sent Pastor Robert Griffin, who served for approximately four years. Under his leadership, the church continued to praise God. The youth ministry flourished, and the church was paid off in one and a half years.

Currently, Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is under the leadership of Pastor Derell Wiley. He believes that we can truly move mountains through prayer and faith. His established mission for Sykes Chapel is: "Exalting the Savior, Equipping the Saints, and Evangelizing the Sinner." In his vision, souls are saved, minds are renewed, hearts are cleansed, and members are rejuvenated. He emphasizes that the atmosphere will be shifted and a change will occur when we work together and embrace others with love, for God is love.

They are a little country church, but they serve an awesome God, who is able to transform minds, spirits, and lives. Under Pastor Wiley's leadership, they are growing physically and spiritually—studying and standing on the word of God. The following ministries have been started: Youth Ministry, Jail Ministry and Counseling, and the Convalescent Home Ministry.

By faith, they are discovering their purposes and trusting God for His promises. As God leads and guides, the future ministries will be developed: family ministries, couple ministries, and single ministries, as we become spiritually and physically prepared for God's kingdom. By faith, mountains are being moved, sinners are seeking Christ, and Christians are being restored.

The Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, believes that the greatest privilege and responsibility is to create disciples for Christ. The members are therefore committed to fulfilling their purpose through worship, fellowship, ministry, and Christian education.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sykes Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for its dedication to serving our great community and country.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES NEWTON
AS HE IS HONORED BY THE
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF THE
NORTHTOWNS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of a dedicated public servant, Superintendent Dr. James Newton, who is being honored by the Boys and Girls Club of the Northtowns, also known as the Newman Club, with an award.

Dr. Newton spent 31 years working in public education; 19 of those were in the City of Tonawanda. He began his career as junior high principal in 1998. He was an integral part in passing the largest capital project in the history of the district. The project was over 25 million dollars in improvements to fund a new library media center and gymnasium, among other upgrades.